

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated below

1. (Currently amended) A method of making an elastomeric formulation comprising the steps of:

combining a base polymer ~~comprising carboxylate groups~~ with:

(a) carboxylic acid or a derivative thereof;

(b) a compound comprising a divalent or trivalent metal;

(c) an amine or amino compound; and

(d) a neutralizing agent to neutralize at least a portion of the carboxylate groups in the base polymer;

wherein an accelerator, thiuram or carbamate is not used, and wherein the carboxylic acid or derivative thereof provides a level of carboxyl groups sufficient to crosslink with the base polymer and complex with the divalent or trivalent metal.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the base polymer is selected from natural latex, acrylonitrile, butadiene rubber, neoprene, isoprene, polychloroprene, and copolymers, blends and mixtures thereof.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the base polymer is acrylonitrile.

4. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the carboxylic acid is selected from oxalic acid, adipic acid, citric acid, malic acid, glutaric acid, pimelic acid,

tartaric acid, succinic acid, malonic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, orthophthalic acid, isophthalic acid, terephthalic acid or mixtures thereof.

5. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the carboxylic acid derivative is selected from ethylene acrylic acid copolymer, poly(acrylic acid), poly(methacrylic acid) ~~and~~ or copolymers, blends ~~and~~ or mixtures thereof.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the carboxylic acid derivative is ethylene acrylic acid copolymer.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the concentration of the carboxylic acid or carboxylic acid derivative is from about 0.1 to about 10 parts based on total dry weight of the base polymer.

8. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the divalent or trivalent metal ion is selected from zinc, titanium, aluminum, manganese, copper, nickel, ~~and~~ or mixtures thereof.

9. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the divalent or trivalent metal ion is obtained from zinc oxide, zinc ammonium carbonate, titanium dioxide, aluminum oxide, manganese oxide, ~~and~~ or mixtures thereof.

10. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the metal ion is obtained from zinc oxide.

11. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the concentration of the compound comprising a divalent or trivalent metal is from about 0.1 to about 5 parts based on total dry weight of the base polymer.

12. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the amine or amino compound is selected from an aliphatic primary amine, an alkanoamine, ~~and~~ or mixtures thereof.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the amine or amino compound is ammonium hydroxide.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the amine or amino compound is used to adjust the pH of the elastomeric formulation to from about 8 to about 10.

15. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the neutralizing agent is selected from potassium hydroxide, sodium hydroxide, lithium hydroxide, ammonium hydroxide, ~~and~~ or mixtures thereof.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the neutralizing agent is potassium hydroxide.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the concentration of the neutralizing agent is from about 0.1 to about 1.0 based on total dry weight of the base polymer.

18. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of combining an additional material selected from processing agents, pH control agents, curing agents, coagulants, colorants ~~and~~ or fillers.

19. (Currently amended) ~~The method of Claim 18, wherein~~ A latex article made from the elastomeric formulation material is formed into a latex article of Claim 1.

20. (Currently amended) The ~~method~~ latex article of Claim 19, wherein the article is formed by straight dipping, coagulant dipping, casting or coating.

21. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~20~~ 1, further comprising forming the elastomeric formulation into an article and drying the article at a temperature from about 140° F to about 250° F.

22. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~20~~ 21, further comprising drying the article at a temperature from about 160° F to about 200° F.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 19, wherein the article is a glove.

24. (Currently amended) A glove comprising the elastomeric ~~material~~ formulation made by the method of Claim ~~1~~ 2.

25. (Currently amended) A method of making a latex article comprising the steps of:

forming a latex formulation by combining 100 dry parts by weight of a base polymer ~~comprising carboxylate groups~~ with:

(a) about 0.1 to about 10 parts by weight carboxylic acid or derivatives thereof;

(b) about 0.1 to about 5 parts by weight divalent or trivalent metal ion;

(c) an amount of an amine or amino compound sufficient to adjust the pH of the latex formulation to between about 8 and 10; and

(d) about 0.1 to about 1.0 parts by weight neutralizing agent;

wherein an accelerator, thiuram, or carbamate are not used and wherein the carboxylic acid or derivatives thereof provides a level of carboxyl groups sufficient to crosslink with the base material and complex with the divalent or trivalent metal.

26. (Original) A method of making a latex article comprising the steps of:  
forming a latex formulation by combining with 100 dry parts by weight acrylonitrile with:  
(a) about 0.2 to about 8 parts by weight ethylene acrylic acid;  
(b) about 0.3 to about 2 parts by weight zinc oxide;  
(c) an amount of ammonium hydroxide sufficient to adjust the pH of the  
latex formulation to between about 8 and 10; and  
(d) about 0.2 to about 0.7 part by weight potassium hydroxide;  
wherein an accelerator, thiuram or carbamate are not used.

Claims 27-33. Cancelled.

34. (Currently amended) A latex article comprising the formulation  
~~elastomeric material~~ of Claim ~~27~~ 36.

35. (Currently amended) The latex article of Claim ~~33~~ 34, wherein the  
article is a glove.

36. (Currently amended) A formulation comprising :  
100 dry parts by weight of a base polymer ~~comprising carboxylate groups~~;  
about 0.1 to about 10 parts carboxylic acid or derivatives thereof;  
about 0.1 to about 5 parts of a compound comprising divalent or trivalent  
metal;  
an amount of an amine or amino compound sufficient to adjust the pH of  
the latex formulation to between about 8 and 10; and  
about 0.1 to about 1.0 parts neutralizing agent;

wherein an accelerator, thiuram, or carbamate are not present, and wherein the carboxylic acid or copolymer thereof provides a level of carboxyl groups sufficient to crosslink with the base material and complex with the divalent or trivalent metal.

37. (Original) A formulation comprising :

100 dry parts by weight acrylonitrile;

about 0.2 to about 8 parts by weight ethylene acrylic acid;

about 0.3 to about 2 parts by weight zinc oxide;

an amount of ammonium hydroxide sufficient to adjust the pH of the latex formulation to between about 8 and 10; and

0.2 to about 0.7 part potassium hydroxide;

wherein an accelerator, thiuram or carbamate are not present.

Please add the following new Claims 38 and 39.

38. (New) A latex article comprising the formulation of Claim 37.

39. (New) The latex article of Claim 38, wherein the article is a glove.